

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of the foregoing amendment pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR §1.116, and reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks and arguments, are respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 38-54 and 68-83 are currently pending in this application. By the foregoing amendment, Claims 38-54 and 68-83 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Claims 5, 6, 8, 10 and 15 have been revised to more clearly set forth their patentable distinctions over the prior art currently being relied upon by the Examiner and subsequently discussed herein, and new dependent Claims 84-97 have been added to afford the applicants the breadth and scope of patent protection to which they are entitled. Accordingly, Claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 15 and 84-97 are now present in this application for consideration and allowance.

Claims 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 15 currently stand finally rejected on the following grounds which are respectfully traversed for reasons subsequently set forth herein.

1. Claims 8 and 15 stand finally rejected under 35 USC §102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,478,091 to Gano;
2. Claim 10 stands finally rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,505,682 to Brockman;
3. Claim 5 stands finally rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brockman in view of U.S. Patent 5,842,516 to Jones; and
4. Claims 5 and 6 stand finally rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brockman in view of U.S. Patent 5,765,756 to Jordan.

Amended Claim 8 recites that its specified well screen comprises a perforated tubular inner body portion having a side wall material; at least one line embedded in the side wall material; a perforated tubular outer jacket outwardly circumscribing the inner body portion; a perforated tubular outer jacket outwardly circumscribing the inner body portion; and an inflation member removably disposed between the inner body portion and the outer jacket portion, the inflation member being inflatably expandable in a wellbore, by pressurizing the interior of the inner body portion, to radially expand the outer jacket away from the inner body portion into engagement with the wellbore. In Gano, inflatable element 58 (see FIGS. 3A and 3B) is the innermost element in the illustrated expandable structure 60 – it is not disposed between an innermost perforated tubular body portion and a perforated tubular outer jacket as required by Claim 8. It is thus respectfully submitted that Claim 8 is not anticipated by the Gano reference.

Amended Claim 15 specifies (in a manner to that in amended Claim 8) that the recited line is embedded in an innermost perforated tubular member portion of the well screen. In Gano, lines 17 are disposed between elements 46 and 12 – not embedded in either element. It is thus respectfully submitted that Claim 15 is not anticipated by the Gano reference. Similarly, new Claims 84-97, which depend from Claim 15, are also seen to be patentably distinguishable over Gano.

Amended Claim 10 specifies a line embedded in an innermost tubular member of a screen structure. Brockman does not disclose this claimed line embedment location. In Brockman (see FIG. 23) the line 166 is not embedded in the innermost tubular member of the screen structure – it is embedded in the outer tubular member 33 as indicated by the

Examiner. It is thus respectfully submitted that Claim 10 is not anticipated by Brockman.

Amended Claim 5 specifies (in a manner similar to that in Claim 15) a line embedded in an innermost perforated tubular member of a screen structure. Neither Brockman, Jones nor Jordan teaches or in any manner suggests this claimed feature of applicants' invention. It is thus respectfully submitted that Claim 5 is patentably distinguishable over the Brockman, Jones and Jordan references, whether these three references are considered singly or in any combination thereof.

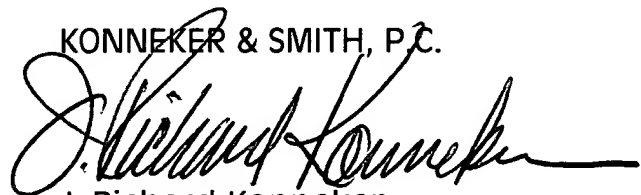
Amended Claim 6 specifies that the recited protective shield structure has a fixed geometry configuration (the alleged erosion shield structure in Jordan et al having a variable, telescopic configuration), extends entirely through the opening which it protects (the tubular outlet erosion shield members 30 in Jones '516 extending through only portions of their protected outlet openings 28), and the flexible retainer surrounds essentially the entire outer side surface of the shield structure (the Jordan et al O-rings referred to by the Examiner covering only small portions of the telescoping members on which they are installed). For these reasons it is respectfully submitted that Claim 6 is patentably distinguishable over the Brockman and Jordan references, whether these two references are considered singly or in any combination thereof.

In view of the foregoing amendment, remarks and arguments, all of the claims currently pending in this application are now seen to be in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance of Claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 15 and 84-97 is therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is hereby requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at 972/516-0030 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

KONNEKER & SMITH, P.C.



J. Richard Konneker
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,867

Dated: July 10, 2003

660 N. Central Expwy., #230
Plano, Texas 75074
972/516-0030

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

on

July 10, 2003
Charity Fair